

**Iowa Telecommunications & Technology Commission  
Grimes State Office Building, 1st Floor  
400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319**

**FINAL**

**January 17, 2013**

To ensure the most efficient use of State resources, the January 17, 2013, ITTC meeting was held via conference call pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8. A video conference call also ensured more Commissioners were able to participate in the meeting and reduced the risk of delays caused by weather or other impediments to travel. The meeting was accessible to members of the public through attendance at the Grimes State Office Building.

**Commissioners Present**

Richard Bruner, Chair (on-site)  
Robert R. Hardman, Member (via video conference)  
Tim Lapointe, Member (on-site)  
Mary Sellers, Member (on-site)

**Absent Commissioner**

Kathleen Kohorst, Member  
David A. Vaudt, Ex-Officio Member

**Iowa Communications Network Staff Present:**

Dave Lingren, Executive Director  
Mark Johnson, Administration Director  
Phil Groner, Business Services Manager  
David Marley, Network Operations and Engineering Manager  
Marcia Page, Executive Secretary  
Lori Larsen, Communications Director  
Jontell Harris, Director of Government Relations  
Carmelita Doke, Receptionist (Recorder/Minutes)

**Guests:**

John Korkie, Century Link  
Gina Miller, Century Link  
Meghan Gavin, Attorney General's Office  
Dave Duncan, Iowa Telecommunications Association

**Call to Order**

Chair Bruner called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. It was noted that a quorum of members were present for the meeting. Mary Sellers was introduced as the newest member of the Commission.

**Approval of the 11/15/2012 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner LaPointe moved to approve the 11-15-2012 ITTC minutes as written. Commissioner Seller seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hardman – Yes  
Commissioner Lapointe – Yes  
Commissioner Sellers – Yes  
Commissioner Bruner – Yes

## **Old Business**

### **Video Service Project (VSP) Update – Phil Groner**

This is a conversion from the platform that ICN is using today during this video conference to a newer IP video based platform called the Video Service Project (VSP).

The Limited Marketed Offering (LMO) start date was originally scheduled to be February 15, 2013. The date has been postponed 30 days due to the technical team identifying gateway efficiency issues. The function of the gateway allows a bridge between current ICN MPEG systems, known as the legacy system, to Internet Protocol (IP). It was discovered that a correct ratio from ports to sites was necessary to complete the bridge between the platforms.

The LMO will be facing two challenges. First, the test users or early adopters will move to the production platform. Then on a case by case basis, ICN Video Service Project (VSP) team will be introducing new customers to the platform.

Secondly, the VSP policy subcommittee will be addressing the scheduling issues. The current legacy platform has had a proprietary scheduling system since the inception of the network that is not a usable platform on the IP network. Due to technical issues with the current platform, the ICN policy subcommittee will move the scheduling software issues up on the timeline, address those issues and provide recommendations.

Q. Please update the ITTC on the new rate model?

A. The recommendation from AVI was for ICN to go to a feature service based rate model. The ICN VSP team is still looking at different rate models and will search for alternatives to apply new rates to this model. The VSP Rate Team will submit a recommendation to the Commission in the Spring.

ICN discussed the option of the Commissioners having the ability to use the new IP video conferencing technology and are still on course with this process. There will be three rooms with video conferencing capability available in the Grimes State Office Building. All three rooms will be distance learning equipped to receive IP video conferencing using H.323 industry standard technology. The rooms are three prototypes that will be used to demonstrate the benefits of IP video conferencing to authorized users.

### **BTOP Grant Update – Dave Lingren**

The Broadband Technology and Opportunities Project (BTOP) is still in progress. Dave Marley is the Interim Director now for Operations and Engineering and assisting with leadership of the project. ICN has a contractor working with the fiber installation for the few locations left to be upgraded and was a little behind on schedule, but ICN is working to meet the deadlines and get back on track within the next month or two.

This is part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) grant for the Broadband Technology and Opportunities Project (BTOP) and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) oversees the project. ICN received a \$16.2 million dollar grant and had to match \$7.6 million totaling \$23 million to fund this project. ICN fiber core network has been upgraded to be the finest in the state for the purpose of distance learning. The upgrades of the bandwidth are for Public Safety and Homeland Security and had to be upgraded due to new demands

from other public and private sector users, such as healthcare. The education community has been restricted due to the limited amount of bandwidth made available to them. However, ICN has doubled the bandwidth for the education community by providing the needed bandwidth for their distance learning capabilities and other needs regarding the computer technology in the classrooms. All that has been accomplished on this project could not have been done without the participation and cooperation of the private telephone companies. ICN is not expanding the core network with the education community, the services are completed through private connections.

### **New Business:**

#### **Action: Sale/Lease RFP Update – Jontell Harris**

During the legislative session of 2011, House File 45 was passed which required ITTC to complete an RFP for sale or lease of the network which has to be completed by the end of June 2013.

ICN Director, Dave Lingren and Administration Director, Mark Johnson met with Fiberutilities Group to determine if the RFP document had any potential issues. With no issues foreseen, the RFP document was presented to the Governor's Office for review. The ITTC has not received any feedback from IGOV. This is a very busy time since the legislative session has just begun and there were changes within the Governor's staff. IGOV did state that they may require clarification on some issues. Mark Johnson met with Adam Gregg, the Governor's new Legislative Liaison and gave him a copy of the RFP. Adam has only been on the Governor's staff for a few weeks so ICN would like to give him ample time to review the document and provide feedback.

Commissioner Lapointe made the motion to defer any discussion on approving the RFP for the Sale/Lease of ICN until ITTC receives recommendations and feedback from IGOV. Commissioner Hardman seconded this motion.

Commissioner Hardman – Yes  
Commissioner Lapointe – Yes  
Commissioner Sellers – Yes  
Commissioner Bruner – Yes

Q. How long will ITTC need to give the Governor's Office for their input?

A. It shouldn't take any longer than a week or two. The Governor's Office is aware of the timeline that ICN is required to meet in order to adhere to the June 30, 2013 deadline. Once ICN receives the feedback, ICN will notify the Commission and schedule a teleconference to discuss and approve the RFP.

#### **Finance Update – Dave Lingren on behalf of Deb Evans**

Costs associated with projects such as the RFP for the sale or lease of the ICN, the BTOP project, the Video Services Project (VSP) and the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Project (IRHTP) are all extraordinary, one-time, additional expenses each totaling about \$1.5 million dollars annually. ICN has to cover these expenses as well as the day-to-day operational expenses. ICN is within budget and had started out in the red during the New Year, and with the additional expenses is still doing well. Most of the expenses for the projects that have been mentioned, including the revenue opportunities that were a result of these projects, will conclude at the end of the fiscal year. The budget will reflect improvements once the projects have concluded.

### **Legislative Update – Mark Johnson**

Legislative session began on Monday January 14, 2013. ICN does not have any legislation to move forward with at this time. ICN has some issues regarding budget bills with respect to the contracting cap regarding the unified communications project, making it possible to exceed the cap. ICN's appropriation request regarding the equipment expenses will be submitted for approximately \$2 million dollars. The Regional Telecommunications Council (RTC) funding for the education community will be recommended by the Governor to the legislature.

### **Regional Telecommunications Council (RTC) Tracking Update – Lori Larsen**

In a past Commission meeting, State Auditor David Vaudt offered his staff to review the tracking components submitted by the RTC support staff. There are 15 regions and the support staff includes scheduling, video technicians, and internet support which is Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN) and is normally provided by the Area Education Agencies (AEAs). This is the first year that ICN has administered this appropriation. The previous oversight was provided by Iowa Public Television (IPTV). The legislative appropriation language of the allocation provides an explanation to what the appropriation can be used for. The fiscal year 2013 appropriation is just under \$1 million dollars.

ICN staff has been working with the Auditor's Office for the last two months. ICN wants to ensure that the appropriation language is correctly analyzed and that the information being received from the RTC support staff is useful from the Auditor's perspective.

- *The Auditor's Office is narrowing down a recommendation for ICN. Auditor Vaudt plans to share the recommendation at the February Commission meeting.*

**Pieces Being Reviewed Include:** Appropriation Language, Guidelines, Support Staff Oversight, and the Tracking Components.

- *The Auditor's Office received feedback from RTC support staff and coordinators. The Auditor's Office wanted to know if RTC support staff is required to submit separate tracking documentation for a specific time period to be reviewed by the support staff supervisor.*

**RTC Sub Committee:** The RTC sub-committee plans to meet on February 1 to review and acknowledge the tracking received for the first half of the fiscal year (July-December). Their recommendation will be provided to the Commission during the February meeting. This acknowledgment will provide the distribution of the second half of the allocation for each RTC.

**RTC Vacancies:** RTC membership vacancies are decreasing. In December of 2011, there were 33 vacancies. In December of 2013, there were less than eight vacancies. As of January, there are a total of four vacancies. IPTV staff, ICN Staff, and RTC Coordinators have been working diligently to fill the vacancies to ensure a quorum for each of the 15 regions.

Q. Has any feedback been provided regarding the reporting or tracking requirements?

A. No feedback has been provided at this time.

- *The Auditor's Office inquired about if each of the coordinators and support staff are filling out a tracking log and if the log was being provided to their supervisors to ensure that the process was not a duplicating effort and cumbersome.*

Transparency is necessary to track where the money is being used. Each of the RTC's understand the importance of the tracking requirements.

**Other Business – Executive Director, Dave Lingren**

*Update regarding Unified Communications* - ICN manages the Capital Complex phone system for the executive, legislative and judicial state branches. Siemens manufactures the system. ICN will have just under 13,000 ports and has been upgrading this system the last few years with infrastructure funds appropriated by the legislature. ICN had a phase that accessed locations that operated from the phone system that were located off of the Capital Complex. ICN made a decision that the right approach would be to use the “Cloud Computing” for voice communications. It would be architecture that is more robust and provides the capability of meeting the needs of agencies throughout the state, not just on the Capitol Complex. ICN’s telecommunication upgraded system is called the Siemens OpenScape Voice (OSV) platform. This system has the capability of reaching 500,000 ports.

The system’s goal is two-fold: One, ICN found an efficient way to reduce government costs by 15% and the OSV platform will allow ICN to save on costs. There are ways to use this product by using technology called Voice over IP (VoIP) and put services at those locations without the costs of duplicating systems. Local dial-tone services will continue. ICN’s second goal is to provide a single architectural concept for those who are selling telecommunications voice services to the state. This would provide one point where needs can be addressed in a fair and equitable manner for all involved. ICN has the new OSV telephones implemented and is in the process of implementing the Unified Communications which means the different mediums - videos, voice, data and voice messaging - are consolidated under one platform. This will make the system more efficient.

Q. There was an initial plan for getting rid of landlines on the Capitol Complex, how many have been reduced and what is the status of this?

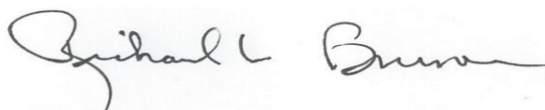
A. This plan was originally with Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and is no longer a plan. There were a few hundred ICN landlines that have been removed and converted to cell phones. Of the 390 phones, over 200 were turned in.

Unified Communications syncs all cell phones and other services together so when using the cell phone, the 5-digit dialing, you can expect the current platforms to be available. It has been discussed that management of the cellular phone service could potentially go along with ICN, consolidate and use the unified services.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Bruner moved that the meeting be adjourned. The ITTC meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

ATTESTED TO:



---

Richard Bruner, Chair, Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission